

Exhibit No. 11Date 3-17-09Bill No. SB 183

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March 17, 2009

Senate Bill 183 and problems with FWP fiscal note:

Mr. Chairman and Senators:

In the most recent FWP wolf management plan put out in 2008, they are not attempting to cap wolf numbers or in any way affect the distribution of wolves. In fact nothing they are planning to do will stop the wolf problems we are facing. No where in the plan do they mention they will do anything to reduce wolf problems with wild ungulates.

Ed Bangs testified in court last year that he has spent 27 million recovering wolves. He mentioned that Montana has agreed to maintain a population of 400 wolves. Apparently that was a backroom deal with FWP. Dr. David Mech, with 50 years of wolf research, told the court that the three states probably have 3,000 wolves instead of 1,500 counted.

Ken Hamlin and Julie Cunningham, FWP put out a final research report in late 2008 on impacts of wolves on ungulates. In that report they mention that wolves are currently grabbing 67 per cent of all the funding spent on all big game surveys in Montana. That is up from 45 per cent in 2005. Elk are a major money maker for FWP, but they have cut back 15 per cent on elk surveys between 2006 and 2008.

FWP is spending about \$2,000. per wolf based on funds received from USFWS. A recent FWP report indicated they only had 4.5 full-time wolf employees. Other FWP information shows they have had as many as 6 men and 18 women working full-time, temporary or as volunteers. All are probably costing the state some money. This note says they need 10 full-time employees the first year and nine after that to manage 150 wolves. That is 15 wolves per full-time employee and the cost per wolf would be \$6,600. each.

There are a lot of hidden costs FWP is not mentioning. Some wildlife populations are being devastated by wolves as are some ranchers and outfitters. Wolves on the Madison are killing 23 elk per wolf in the six months winter period. Kills the rest of the year are unknown. State-wide wolves are killing thousands of big game animals, livestock and dogs worth millions of dollars. Wolves are running elk off Wildlife Management areas purchased for ungulate winter range. That has occurred on the 45,000 acres of the Blacktail and Robb-Ledford since at least 2003. Those ranges were purchased for over 3 million and most of the elk have been wintering on private property. Ditto for the Porcupine and Bear Creek WMA. I learned just this past week that wolves have chased all but 47 elk off the 5,900 acre Wall Creek Game Range on the Madison and they went east and south of the highway to private land.

Wolves are pushing Yellowstone Park elk with high levels of brucellosis infection onto cattle ranches and costing ranchers millions. The segment of Gravelly Mountains' elk which used to winter on Wall Creek will likely bring back more brucellosis infection after mingling with the YNP elk which winter east of the Madison River. Elk in the Centennial Valley and on Blacktail Creek are pushed out of the mountains by wolves and move to center pivot irrigated land close to ranch homes and the town of Dillon where they are then inaccessible to hunters also.

Several wolf packs on the Madison are chasing elk through fences on ranches and destroying the fences. One rancher estimates it will cost \$100,000. to restore his fences.

Finally the proposed no trapping and very limited hunting of wolves with rigid controls will do nothing to control the expanding wolf population.

Alberta has 4,000 wolves and a hunting season which runs from beginning of big game season till the end of May. They manage to take about 100 wolves a year with hunting and many of those are taken over baits in front of heated blinds in winter. Trappers take an additional 400 wolves if fur prices are over \$100. per pelt Black wolves and wolves with mange have very low fur value.

British Columbia has an expanding wolf population of 7,500 to 8,000 wolves and hunters take about 500 wolves a year. The hunting seasons run from 7 to 11 months and the bag limit is three wolves per hunter. Trappers only take about 200 wolves a year in B.C.

FWP has ignored future restitution values of many millions which should be awarded from the federal government and environmental groups for damages the wolves have caused.

We need you to help pass this bill so we can take control of wolves and start doing a better job with all our big game animals and livestock. This wolf recovery has all been a big hoax. Wolves have always been present in SW and NW Montana and they never should have been listed as endangered or threatened with over 60,000 wolves in Canada and Alaska. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Allen Schallenberger